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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Bianchi et al.  Application of Serial No. 10/699,175  Filed October 31, 2003  OPEN INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER	<ul><li>) Before the Examiner:</li><li>) Suzette J-J Gherbi</li></ul>	
	) Group Art Unit 3738	
	) Ref. No. MSDI-434/PC316	
	) May 16, 2006	

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated December 16, 2005, please enter and consider the following remarks. A fee in the amount of \$1,590.00 is remitted herewith for a four (4) month extension of time, thereby extending the time period to respond to the Office Communication issued on December 16, 2005 from January 16, 2006 to May 16, 2006. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time necessary and charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: May 16, 2006 Date of Transmission Brad A. Schepers Name of Registered Representative Signature May 16, 2006 Date of Signature